



On February 16, 2022, Minister-Counselor Mark Dries and Office of Agricultural Affairs staff paid a courtesy call on Administrator Park Byung-hong of the Rural Development Administration (RDA), an agency of Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. During the visit, the Administrator explained that RDA was participating in efforts to address climate change, including with the United States, and asked for renewed cooperation from the U.S. Embassy on agricultural research work the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is leading. RDA established a MOU in 1985 with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and since that time, ARS and RDA have been actively carrying out various studies together across a wide range of areas, including climate. Mr. Dries recognized the importance of this longstanding collaboration and noted that the United States was co-leading the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C), which Secretary Vilsack would be further progressing during a visit to the UAE later that week. Mr. Dries also sought RDA's views and further cooperation in the areas of agricultural biotechnology and genome editing, as well as implementation of Korea's Positive List System for agrochemicals in food and agricultural production.